

13 Conditionals (If I am . . .)

1 Look at this:

If + PRESENT SIMPLE + PRESENT SIMPLE		
If	I eat too much,	I feel bad.

(= Every time I eat too much, I feel bad.)

We use this structure (if + Present Simple, + Present Simple) for facts that are generally true:

*If I **don't get** enough sleep, I **feel** tired.*

(= Every time I don't get enough sleep, I feel tired.)

*If you **want** to become a doctor, you **have** to study hard.* (= Anyone who wants to become a doctor has to study hard.)

2 We can say the same thing by reversing the two parts of the sentence:

PRESENT SIMPLE + if + PRESENT SIMPLE		
I feel bad	if	I eat too much.

Note that we do not use a comma (,) before if.

3 Now look at this:

If + PRESENT SIMPLE + will/won't		
If	I'm late,	she'll be angry.

(= Perhaps I will be late; then she'll be angry.)

We use this structure (if + Present Simple + **will/won't**) to talk about things that may happen in the future. The verb after if is Present Simple, but we use it for a possible future action or situation; we use **will/won't** + verb for the result:

future possibility + result		
If	we don't hurry ,	we won't finish .

4 We can reverse the order:

*She'll be angry **if** I'm late.*

*We won't finish **if** we don't hurry.*

5 We do not use **will/won't** after if:

Not ~~*If I will be late, she'll be angry.*~~

Practice

A Put these facts about various types of people into sentences with **if + Present Simple, + Present Simple**. Make **you** the subject of both parts of the sentence.

0 Doctors treat people who are ill.

If you're a doctor, you treat people who are ill.

1 Vegetarians don't eat meat.

If you're a vegetarian, _____

2 People who live in a hot country don't like cold weather.

If you live _____

3 Teachers have to work very hard.

If you're a teacher, _____

4 People who do a lot of exercise stay fit and healthy.

If you _____

5 Mechanics understand engines.

If you're a _____

6 People who read newspapers know what's happening in the world.

B Complete these sentences with *if* + Present Simple, + *will/won't*, using the words in brackets. Sometimes you do not need to change the words in brackets ().

- 0 If it rains (it/rain), we won't go (we/not/go) out.
- 1 If _____ (the weather/be) nice tomorrow, _____ (we/drive) to the coast.
- 2 If _____ (she/post) the letter now, _____ (they/receive) it tomorrow.
- 3 _____ (the boss/be) angry if _____ (John/arrive) at work late again.
- 4 _____ (I/go) to their party if _____ (I/have) enough time.
- 5 If _____ (she/not/pass) this exam, _____ (she/not/get) the job that she wants.
- 6 _____ (you/learn) a lot if _____ (you/take) this course.
- 7 If _____ (I/get) a ticket, _____ (I/go) to the concert.
- 8 _____ (I/buy) that camera if _____ (it/not/cost) too much.
- 9 If _____ (you/run) very fast, _____ (you/catch) the bus.
- 10 _____ (I/go) to the doctor's if _____ (I/not/feel) better tomorrow.
- 11 If _____ (they/win) this game, _____ (they/be) the champions.

C Complete the dialogues with the Present Simple or *will/won't* forms of the words in brackets (). Sometimes you do not need to change the words in brackets.

- 0 A: We must be at the airport at 2 o'clock.
B: Well, if we take _____ (we/take) a taxi at 1 o'clock, we won't be _____ (we/not/be) late.
- 1 A: I'd like a newspaper.
B: Well, _____ (I/buy) one for you if _____ (I/go) to the shop later.
- 2 A: Has John phoned yet?
B: No, and if _____ (he/not/phone) this afternoon, _____ (I/phone) him this evening.
- 3 A: Is Fiona there, please?
B: No, but if _____ (you/want) to leave a message, _____ (I/give) it to her.
- 4 A: Is Tim going to pass his exam?
B: Well, _____ (he/fail) if _____ (he/not/work) harder.
- 5 A: Could I have some information about this year's concerts, please?
B: Yes, if _____ (you/fill in) this form, _____ (I/send) it to you in the post.